

2026 Project Guidelines: MEAT PROCESSORS



A. Application Submission

1. Prior to submitting an application, applicants are advised to review the “Guiding Principles for Board Action” and Project “Guidelines – Request for Funds,” which are available on-line at www.kyagr.com/agpolicy.
2. A completed KADF application shall be prioritized by the appropriate county council(s) and forwarded to the KADB for final decision.
3. A formal business plan (financials included) reviewed by Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) or another third-party organization must be submitted with the application.
4. A consultation summary by an approved third-party meat consultant must be submitted with the application. Prior to the Application Review Committee meeting, the applicant must submit feedback responding to the consultation summary from the approved third-party meat consultant.

B. Eligible Projects

1. Eligible items for a meat processing project include:
 - a. Expenses related to the construction of a new USDA certified meat processing facility or expansion/renovation of an existing USDA certified facility, including equipment purchases.
2. Requests for funding will be evaluated for completeness and the ability to quantify and substantiate the benefit of the facility to USDA processing in the state.

C. Funding Limitations

1. Only expenditures incurred after the date the application is received by the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy are eligible for consideration.
2. Applicants will be limited to 50% cost-reimbursement for the eligible expenditures as a forgivable loan.
3. Applicants must obtain and maintain USDA processing certification for the duration of their agreement. Applicants who wish to remain a custom processing facility are ineligible for funding.
4. Match shall be new project expenses or documented third party donated materials and equipment. **Land is not an eligible match. In-kind services, labor or funds from other KADF projects are also not an eligible match.**
5. Applicants will be limited to no more than \$250,000 in state funds, per program year.
6. Meat processing applicants shall receive – at a minimum – a high priority and commitment of county funds from the location county of the facility to be eligible for state funds.
7. Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds (state & county) cannot be more than 50% of the total project cost.

D. Post Approval Requirements

1. Recipients will be required to provide a detailed listing and verification of all expenditures related to the project. Verification shall be made by submitting itemized receipts/invoice and either a cancelled check or copy of relevant credit card statement as proof of payment.
2. Cash receipts are not eligible for reimbursement.
3. Recipients shall comply with all reporting requirements.